REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to correct typographical errors appearing in claims 1, 2, 3, 24, 27, 34, and 36. No new matter is introduced by the amendment and entry thereof is requested.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903 (612) 332-5300

Dated: 2 September 2004

Douglas P. Mueller

Reg. No. 30,300 DPM:hjm

15